



## Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Landowners Honored as Outstanding Forest Stewards** *Edmonson, Johnson and Jackson County landowners win awards*

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (Aug. 2, 2012) – Landowners from Edmonson, Johnson and Jackson counties were recently honored as Outstanding Forest Stewards for 2011 at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts. They were selected for their exceptional stewardship accomplishments as determined by natural resource professionals from the Kentucky Division of Forestry (KDF), the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resource Conservation Service.

“Forest stewardship involves cooperative planning and management of natural resources in an effort to conserve habitat and promote sustainability,” said Leah MacSwords, director for KDF. “This year’s honorees have put forth an extraordinary amount of effort and it is our pleasure to work with them in achieving environmental stewardship.”

The 2011 Outstanding Forest Stewards are:

#### **First Place:**

Perry and Ann Sebaugh of Edmonson County – The Sebaughs own over 300 acres of woodlands and have actively managed their forests since 1984. In 1998, they were certified as a Kentucky Forest Stewards after signing up for KDF’s forest stewardship program, which provides free technical advice to landowners. Over the years, the Sebaughs have implemented numerous forest management practices

including planting more than 17,000 trees and completing 137 acres of timber stand improvement. They also maintain warm season grasses and small food plots for wildlife. The Sebaughs have hosted numerous field days on their farm and are active members in the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association and the Kentucky Tree Farm Committee.

**Second Place:**

Reed and Linda Omer of Johnson County – The Omers own and manage 320 acres of woodlands and were certified as Kentucky Forest Stewards in 1992. Their accomplishments include planting an experimental American chestnut plot, conducting timber stand improvement and controlling invasive species.

**Third Place:**

Michael and Brenda Meyring of Jackson County – The Meyrings own and manage 112 acres of woodlands and have been Kentucky Forest Stewards since 1998. Among other accomplishments, they have a quarter-acre American chestnut plantation and are actively involved in the American Chestnut Foundation.

For more information about the Kentucky Forest Stewardship program, please visit <http://forestry.ky.gov/LandownerServices/Pages/default.aspx> or contact KDF at 502-564-4496.

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